

Minutes of the Grinnell City Council Meeting Monday, December 6, 2004

The City Council of the City of Grinnell met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Grinnell Community Center, 927 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 6, 2004. Mayor Canfield presided.

Roll Call: PRESENT: Elliott, McNaul, Witt, White, Worley, Wilson ABSENT: None.

PERFECTING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by WHITE, second by MCNAUL, to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as printed. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, McNaul, Wilson, Elliott, Worley, Witt. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Previous minutes as drafted from the Monday, November 15, 2004 Regular Session.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Moved by WHITE, second by MCNAUL, to pay all bills where funds are available. Roll Call: Ayes: White, McNaul, Elliott, Worley, Witt. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- I. Thank You: Phyllis Alexander, Timothy Boren Family
- II. Finance Committee Minutes: November 15, 2004
- III. Public Works and Grounds Committee Minutes: November 15, 2004
- IV. Planning Committee: November 30, 2004
- V. Public Safety Committee Minutes: December 1, 2004
- VI. Grinnell Tourism Group: October 20, 2004.
- VII. Stewart Library Minutes: November 22, 2004
- VIII. Grinnell Renaissance: November 23, 2004.
- IX. Grinnell City Council Special Session: November 17, 2004.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Report from the Finance Committee.
 - Review of the FY 2006 TIF Certification.

White reviewed the certificate and the specific types of items that can be certified. He noted the city was in compliance with the internal policy and limit.

- Review of the Grinnell Newburg Community School District request for waiver of building permit fees.

White discussed the request from the school for waiver of building permit fees for the construction of the new facilities at the high school. This item will be reviewed after the 1st of the year in conjunction with the budget preparation and other requested research.

- Review of the Capital Improvement Plan for Commercial Solid Waste.

White reviewed the proposed commercial solid waste capital improvement needs. The projects included were: a new pickup with tommy lift, rear loading packer truck container set aside, rear load packer for the commercial solid waste route, set aside for enlargement of the recycling center cold storage facility, replacement of the bailer, replacement the load all unit for the residential solid waste department and replacement of one of the recycling trucks.

- Recommendation in regard to the requests for assistance from the Campbell Fund.

The requests were approved as presented.

- II. Report from Public Works & Grounds Committee.
 - Update in regard to the Skate Park Development.

There was no action taken in regard to this item.

- Discussion in regard to the issuance of deeds at the Hazelwood Cemetery.

There was no action taken in regard to this item. The city will complete further research.

- Review of the Grinnell Middle School request for the placement of "trailblazing" signs.

Elliott explained the request from the middle school for the placement of signs to help designate the location and path to the middle school. Two of the requested intersections are under the governance of the state and one intersection is at the designation of the city. The school further requested that the city pay for and install the signs.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to approve the placement of the signs in state right of way, to approve the placement of the sign in city right of way, however the city will not provide the signs or the installation of the signs.

White questioned if signs will be provided for the high school pathway also. Elliott noted that the city has not received a request from the high school. Behrens pointed out that the sign on Pinder will need to be placed on the south side of the road; however the south side of the road is not in corporate city limits. The county will need to be notified and approve of the placement of the sign.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, McNaul, Worley, Wilson, White. Motion carried.

- Update in regard to the implementation of the Commercial Solid Waste Study.

Elliott informed the council of the review of the commercial solid waste study and its implementation. Commercial entities have reviewed their level of service needed and their regular processes which has helped them to decide how much they want to pay based and how much they intend to recycle. The first two months of the program has resulted in an increase of recyclable materials by 200 to 250 ton for the year. Cold storage will be expanded in the future to accommodate the holding of materials to achieve better pricing. Elliott stated the new acceptance of plastic dish lids. Any lid that bears the triangle and plastic mark on it will be accepted.

III. Report from the Planning Committee:

- Discussion in regard to the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment.
- Discussion in regard to the Renaud Annexation.

Worley updated the committee in regard to the proposed Renaud Annexation and public comment allowed at the meeting.

The committee voted to return the item to the Planning and Zoning Commission for clarification of the original vote or to conduct a new vote.

IV. Report from the Public Safety Committee:

- Discussion related to the Fire Service responding to personal injury accidents.

Wilson reviewed the discussion in regard to the fire department having the ability during the day shift to provide quicker response to the scene of the accident and to provide assistance to the ambulance crew upon their arrival. The committee has clarified that the responses would take place only during the day shift as staffing permits. The committee also discussed if the city's liability would increase because they would only respond to some situations and not others. It was determined the service will respond to every call in which requested. The policy continues to be reviewed. The department does have the proper designation to be able to respond to the calls in regard to first responders and first aid. The city is not looking to replace or take work from the ambulance contract; they are simply attempting to enhance it.

- Discussion in regard to the proposal to prosecute city code citations.

Wilson informed the council of the police department moving forward to issuing citations under city code in regard to traffic and other violations. Chief Matherly is negotiating with the assistant county attorney for prosecution of the cases. The committee will report on this item again in the future.

- Discussion in regard to parking restrictions during the reconstruction of the Central Business District.

Wilson described the need for increased parking restrictions when the construction of the Central Business District commences. Additional signage will be required to manage vehicles during the process. The committee discussed possible parking restrictions of oversized vehicles on 4th and 5th Avenues and Main Street. This will allow for better viability with the change to two way traffic.

The Chief notified the committee of two new members approved as volunteers. This increases the staff to 23 volunteers and five full time officers. Wilson encouraged citizens to contact the Fire Chief if they have an interest in serving.

- o Review of the City Manager's Letter to Oakland Acres and rural township trustees.

Wilson explained that it had been discovered that Oakland Acres and the rural townships are not paying a service fee for the use of Midwest Ambulance. It has been determined that a portion of the fees being paid by the city of Grinnell and Poweshiek County are paying for the service that is being provided to them. The city has notified Oakland Acres and the rural townships that the contracts will be terminated to prompt re-negotiations as meetings scheduled to discuss the costs have not been well attended.

Wilson concluded the Public Safety report by informing the council of ongoing research and discussion in regard to speed limits on highway 146. Worley had questioned the continued flashing downtown traffic lights. Wilson explained that the city has been unable to fix the lights and with their pending removal, the flashing light does not merit the expense of the repair.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE.

1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE:

Moved by WORLEY, second by MCNAUL, to introduce and read Ordinance No. 1238: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE II, (TREES IN AND ADJOINING PUBLIC WAYS.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, McNaul, Witt, White, Wilson, Elliott. Motion carried.

FINAL READING OF THE ORDINANCE:

Moved by WHITE, second by WORLEY, to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 1239: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 13, SECTION 13-508 (PARKING RESTRICTIONS.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Worley, Witt, Wilson, McNaul, Elliott. Motion carried.

Moved by WORLEY, second by WHITE to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 1240: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 13, SECTION 13-503 (ONE WAY ALLEYS.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, White, Wilson, Elliott, Witt, McNaul. Motion carried.

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS:

There was no action taken on the adoption of Resolution 2724: "A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS IN REGARD TO TREES."

Elliott questioned the permit fees required for planting trees in the right of way. She was concerned about the clarification of the language in regard to the utilities in the right of way and when it requires payment of an additional fee. Further, she questioned what would happen in the instance someone would plant a tree that is not identified on either the prohibited or accepted list. Worley responded that the tree should be discussed during the permitting process. Elliott inquired as to what the process would be to handle trees that are planted without permit. Worley discussed that the tree would be removed or a municipal infraction could be issued. Staff will attempt to work with the homeowner as long as their action was not intentional.

Moved by WHITE, second by WORLEY, to approve and adopt Resolution 2737: "A RESOLUTION DIRECTING SALE OF \$3,500,000.00 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS."

Tim Oswald – Piper Jaffray – commented that ten bids were received for the sale of the bonds including three of the local banks. He explained the updated Moody's awarded rating (A3). He said the city should not anticipate re-financing this debt and recommend award to the low bid.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes, White, Worley, Wilson, Elliott, McNaul, Witt. Motion carried.

Wilson stated this financing will be for the reconstruction of the downtown streets. Worley commented that this vote should reflect the city's commitment to downtown retail and downtown preservation. White is proud of the approach that is being taken to complete the process as a whole, as opposed to having to scale the project back.

Moved by WORLEY, second by WHITE, to approve and adopt Resolution 2738: "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS SUBMITTED FOR PROPERTY AND REQUEST TAX EXEMPTION FOR THIS

IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 404 OF THE STATE CODE (John A. and R. Nadine Runyan Trust, 917 Main Street.") Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, White, McNaul, Wilson, Elliott, Witt. Motion carried.

INQUIRIES:

White questioned if previous education was required to join a city board or commission or if the city would provide the necessary educational process to inform new board members. Elliott commented that citizens bring the common sense and dedication to the community and staff will provide the expertise to assist. The council encouraged interested citizens to attend some of the meetings prior to volunteering. Behrens noted that training and education is provided.

ADJOURN:

Moved by MCNAUL, second by WHITE, to adjourn this regular session of the Grinnell City Council at 7:50 pm. Vote: (6) ayes, motion carried.

ATTEST:

Gordon Canfield, Mayor

Cassandra R. Hage, City Clerk